PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLIS		T-	DER THE TAILETT COOLERAN	ION TREATT (PCT)
(51) International Patent Classification 6:		(1	1) International Publication Number:	WO 95/00647
C12N 15/31, 5/10, C12P 21/02, A01N 63/02	A1	(4	3) International Publication Date:	5 January 1995 (05.01.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU (22) International Filing Date: 24 June 1994 ((30) Priority Data: PL 9638 25 June 1993 (25.06.93) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): COWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RE	(24.06.9 A DMMO)	94) AU N-	(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MD, M PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, VN, European patent (AT, BE GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, MI	B, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, SK, TJ, TT, UA, US, UZ, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, L, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
ORGANISATION [AU/AU]; Limestone Avenue, (ACT 2601 (AU).			With international search report With amended claims.	11.
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SMIGIELSKI Joseph [AU/AU]; 23 Jarrah Street, O'Connor, A (AU). AKHURST, Raymond, Joseph [AU/AU]; 1 Crescent, Waramanga, ACT 2611 (AU).	CT 260	01		
(74) Agent: F.B. RICE & CO.; 28a Montague Street, Balma 2041 (AU).	in, NSV	w		

(54) Title: TOXIN GENE FROM XENORHABDUS NEMATOPHILUS

(57) Abstract

Purified insecticidal toxins and biologically active fragments thereof, and polynucleotide molecules encoding same, from the bacteria Xenorhabdus nematophilus are described.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

OWS: <WO

9500647A1 I >

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

appno					
AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
ΑÜ	Rarbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB		GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	. HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	п	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JР	Japan .	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG		RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	K.P	of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo			SI	Slovenia
CH	Switzerland	KR	Republic of Korea	SK	Slovakia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KZ	Kazakhstan	SN	Senegal
CM	Cameroon	Ц	Liechtenstein	TD	Chad
CN	China	LK	Sri Lanka	TG	Togo
cs	Czechoslovakia	LU	Lixenbourg	TJ	Tajikistan
cz	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	17	Trinidad and Tobago
DB	Germany	MC	Monaco	UA.	Ukraine
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova		United States of America
ES	Spain	MG	Madagascar	US	Uzbekistan
FI	Finland	ML.	Mali	UZ	
	France	MN	Mongolia	VN	Vict Nam
FR	LIGHT		•		

10

15

20

25

35

1

TOXIN GENE FROM XENORHABDUS NEMATOPHILUS

Technical Field

The present invention concerns the identification and isolation of a new class of protein toxins specific against insects which are produced by bacteria from the species Xenorhabdus nematophilus and possibly by the species X.beddingii. In addition, the present invention relates to the insertion of this class of toxin into recombinant viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and transgenic plants in order to broaden the use of these toxins for control of a large range of insect pests and plant parasitic nematodes.

Background

Insect pathogenic nematodes of the family Steinernematidae are known to be symbiotically associated with bacteria of the genus Xenorhabdus. It has been observed that these bacteria have the ability to kill a wide range of different insects without the aid of their nematode partners.

The present inventors have identified a new class of toxins. A DNA fragment encoding one of these toxins has been isolated from *Xenorhabdus nematophilus* stain A24 and characterised by sequencing. As will be recogised by persons skilled in the art, DNA fragments encoding members of this new class of toxins may be usefully introduced into viral agents, including entomopox and nuclear polyhedrosis viruses; bacteria (including *Gracilicutes*, *Firmicutes*, *Tenericutes* and *Mendosicutes*); fungi; protozoa; and plants.

30 Summary of the Present Invention

In a first aspect, the present invention consists in a polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes an insecticidal toxin and which is at least 70% homologous to the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919, or a fragment thereof which fragment encodes an insecticidal polypeptide.

10

15

20

25

30

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the nucleotide sequence is at least 90% to the sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919.

Preferably, the nucleotide sequence which encodes an insecticidal toxin from *Xenorhabdus* and more preferably, the nucleotide sequence substantially corresponds to the sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919.

In a second aspect the present invention provides in an insecticidal toxin which includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 2 or a functional fragment thereof.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the insecticidal toxin includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 1 or a functional fragment thereof.

In a further preferred embodiment the insecticidal toxin includes an amino acid sequence substantially corresponding to residues 1 to 278 in Table 1 or a functional fragment thereof.

In a third aspect the present invention provides in a recombinant organism, the organism being characterised in that it is transformed with the polynucleotide molecule of the first aspect of the present invention.

The organisms which may be usefully transformed with the polynucleotide molecule of the first aspect of the present invention include viral agents such as entomopox and nuclear polyhedrosis viruses; bacteria, such as Gracilicutes, Firmicutes, Tenericutes and Mendosicutes; fungi; protozoa; and plants.

The term "substantially corresponds" as used herein in relation to the nucleotide sequence is intended to encompass minor variations in the nucleotide sequence which due to degeneracy do not result in a change in the encoded protein. Further this term is intended to encompass other minor variations in the sequence which may be required to enhance expression in a particular system

but in which the variations do not result in a decrease in biological activity of the encoded protein.

The term "substantially corresponding" is used herein in relation to the amino acid sequence is intended to encompass minor variations in the amino acid sequence which do not result in a decrease in biological activity of the insecticidal toxin. These variations may include conservative amino acid substitutions. The substitutions envisaged are:-

10 G, A, V, I, L, M; D, E; N, Q; S, T; K, R, H; F, Y, W, H; and P, Nα-alkalamino acids.

As used herein the term "functional fragments" is intended to encompass fragments of the insecticidal toxin which retain insecticidal activity.

In a fourth aspect, the present invention provides a method for controlling the proliferation of insects, comprising applying to an infested area a recombinant organism according to the third aspect optionally in admixture with an acceptable agricultural carrier.

Isolation and Characterisation of a Toxin from Xenorhabdus nematophilus A24 Generation of a Cosmid Library

Genomic DNA from Xenorhabdus nematophilus A24, isolated using the method of Marmur (1961) was partially digested using the restriction enzyme Sau 3A, to 25 generate fragments of DNA that were in the size range of 30 to 50 kilobasepairs (kb), and dephosphorylated using the enzyme calf alkaline phosphatase. The cosmid "Supercos" (Stratagene) was prepared to receive foreign insert DNA into its Bam HI cloning site according to the 30 manufacturer's instructions. The digested DNA from X.nematophilus A24 was added to the cosmid DNA in a ratio of 3:1 and ligated together using the enzyme T4 DNA The ligated material was subsequently packaged into λ -bacteriophage using the Gigapack II XL Packaging 35 Extract (Stratagene) as per the manufacturer's

15

20

4

instructions. The packaged DNA was subsequently transfected into the *Escherichia coli* strain NM554 (F-, recA, araD139, Δ (ara, leu) 7696, Δ lac Y74, galU-, galK-, hsr, hsm⁺, strA, mcrA[-], mcrB[-]. Bacteria were plated out onto Luria Bertani (LB) agar plates containing 150 µg ml⁻¹ ampicillin to select for those bacteria containing recombinant Supercos plasmids.

Screening for Toxin Producing Clones

Individual clones were grown overnight at 28°C in LB containing 150 µg ml⁻¹ ampicillin. Cultures were treated for 15 minutes with 2mg ml⁻¹ lysozyme in order to release any proteins produced by the recombinant DNA into the medium. Five µl aliquots of this solution were then injected directly into the haemocoel of three Galleria mellonella fourth instar larvae. Appropriate controls containing lysozyme and non-recombinant E.coli NM554 cultures were also injected to confirm the absence of any toxicity to these larvae. Two clones were found to have strong insecticidal activity. Injected larvae were found to be very sluggish after 30 hours, with all larvae dead within three days.

Characterisation of Toxin Producing Clones

The recombinant Supercos DNA from these clones was isolated using an alkaline lysis procedure (Maniatis et al., 1982). Isolated DNA was digested with varying restriction enzymes and analysed using TAE agarose gel electrophoresis (Maniatis et al, 1982). It was found that both clones were identical and contained a 34.6 kb DNA insert from X. nematophilus A24. One of these clones cos149 was chosen for further study.

A 7.4kb Bam HI fragment from cos149 was cloned into the plasmid vector pGEM7Z(f)+ (Promega) which was transformed into the *E.coli* strain DH5 α (F-, Φ 80dlac Z Λ M15, recA1, endA1, gyrA96, thi-1, hsdR17[r_K-, m_K+] sup E44, relA1, deoR, Λ [lacZYA-argF] U169) using electroporation at 25 μ F, 200 Ω and 2.5kV in a 0.2cm

20

cuvette in a Bio-Rad Gene Pulser. This clone (N8pGEM) was found to continue to be toxic against G.mellonella larvae.

Plasmid DNA from N8pGEM was isolated and digested with the restriction enzymes <u>Cla</u>I and <u>Sph</u>I. This resulted in the linearization of this plasmid containing one end (3') which was resistant to digestion by the enzyme Exonuclease III and the other end (5') which could be digested at a constant rate of 450 bases per minute at 37°C by this enzyme using the Erase-a-Base kit from Promega. Using this enzyme aliquots containing decreasing size plasmids were obtained which were recircularised using the enzyme T4 DNA ligase. Recircularised plasmids were reintroduced into the bacterium E.coli strain DH5a using electroporation (see above). Varying size clones were selected and used for injecting G.mellonella larvae. The smallest clone which continued to be insecticidal was found to contain 1.5kb of X. nematophilus A24 DNA and was designated tox 1.

Plasmid DNA from tox 1 was isolated and digested with the restriction enzymes Sac I and HindIII, respectively to again create linear molecules with one end resistant and the other sensitive to digestion with Exonuclease III. Deletion mutants were isolated and tested against G. mellonella larvae. A clone which now 25 only contained 1.2kb of X.nematophilus A24 DNa was isolated and was toxic against our test insect. clone was designated toxb4.

The recombinant plasmids from toxb4 and three further (non-toxic) deletion clones, toxb5, toxb6 and 30 toxb7, were isolated and used for obtaining the sequence of both strands of the toxin gene. Sequencing was performed using the Applied Biosystems, Incorporated Model 370 automated sequencer. Sequencing templates were prepared using double stranded DNA templates and the 21M13 and SP6 primer sites located on the pGEM7Z(f)+ plasmid and

10

15

20

25

30

35

using the Taq dye primer cycle sequencing protocol (Applied Biosystems, Incorporated).

The toxin gene was found to consist of an 834 basepair open reading frame (Table 1) which translates into a 278 amino acid protein (Table 2). The start of the toxin gene sequence was preceded by appropriate DNA promoters necessary for transcription of the gene into a mRNA molecule prior to its synthesis into a peptide. These consist of a Shine-Dalgarno poly-purine sequence and -10 and -35 RNA polymerase recognition sequences (Table 1).

The DNA sequence and the derived amino acid sequences were analysed by sequence data bank analyses to determine if any other related sequences have previously been identified. The results indicated that no other sequence exists in the GenBank and EMBL data banks which has any similarity to this gene and its product. Cloning of Xenorhabdus Toxin into a High-Expression Vector

Using the determined DNA sequence, 20-mer DNA primers were designed to cover the 5' and 3' region of the toxin gene and thus allow PCR amplification of the toxin and subsequent insertion into an expression vector. These primers included linker regions containing appropriate restriction enzyme sites (ClaI and NdeI for the 5' primer and Bam HI for the 3' primer).

- 5' primer CCATCGATCATATGGTTATTAAACC
- 3' primer CGGGATCCTTATCTCTAAGGTTTTT

Utilising a standard PCR protocol (Innis, M.A., Gelford, D.H., Sminsky, J.J. and White, T.J.: (1990). PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications. Academic Press, San Diego. 482pp) the toxin was amplified out of the genome of X.nematophilus A24 and restriction digested with Cla I and Bam HI. The digested fragment was subsequently ligated into pGEM-7Zf(+) and then subcloned from this vector into the high expression vector pT7T2b(derived from pET11 [Novagen] and carrying the T7

10

15

30

35

promoter upstream from the start of the toxin insert; constructed by Dr. Karl Gordon, CSIRO, Division of Entomology) using the restriction enzyme sites Nde I and Bam HI. The recombinant plasmid was transformed into the E. coli strain BL21(DE3)[F-ompT r_B -m_B -, which carries in its chromosome the T7 RNA polymerase gene under lac UV5 control). Induction of the toxin may be achieved by the addition of 0.4mM IPTG at mid-exponential phase of the culture and continuing the incubation for an extra 4 hours.

In vitro expression of the 1.2 Kb insert fragment from toxb4 was achieved with the E.coli S30 Extract Procaryotic Translation System for linear DNA. Only a 30kDa peptide was produced indicating that the 1.2 Kb fragment encodes one peptide only - the insect toxin.

Southern Blot Hybridization of a Range of Xenorhabdus spp. and Photohabdus Luminescens Strains with the X. nematophilus A24 Toxin Gene

DNA isolated from a range of Xenorhabdus species and Photohabdus (bacteria symbiotically associated with nematodes from the family Heterohabditidae) controls was digested to completion with the restriction enzyme Eco RV and run out on a 0.8% TAE agarose gel and the DNA fragments blotted and fixed onto a Hybond-N+ membrane (Amersham) as per the manufacturer's instructions.

The toxin gene was radiolabelled with ³²P using nick translation (Maniatis et al., 1982) and probed against the blot containing the DNA of a range of Xenorhabdus and Photohabdus strains (Maniatis et al., 1982). Under moderate stringency wash conditions at 65°C(0.1% SDS, 1% SSPE, Maniatis et al, 1982) the toxin only hybridised to X. nematophilus and X. beddingii strains. However, the toxin gene did not show any homology to the DNA from strains of X. bovienii, X. poinarii, some unclassified Xenorhabdus spp. and Photohabdus luminescens. This result suggests that this toxin type is confined to strains from

10

15

20

25

30

the species X. nematophilus and X. beddingii. As X. beddingii has insecticidal activity and shows homology to the toxin gene it is most probable that these sequences are part of related/similar yet slightly different toxins.

A high stringency wash at 65°C(0.1% SDS, 0.1% SSPE; Maniatis et al. 1982) of the blot removed the message from the X.beddingii strain, but not from the X.nematophilus strains.

Characteristics of the Toxic Protein Product

The toxin is inactivated by heating to 65°C for 15 minutes, yet stable at 45°C. Sodium dodecyl sulphate at a concentration of 0.1% does not inactivate this toxin thereby indicating extreme stability and thereby a protein which will fold into its appropriate form under a wide range of different conditions (which includes most cell types).

This new class of toxin may be purified by one or more methods of protein purification well known in the art. Insecticidal fragments may be generated from the purified toxin using, for example, cleavage with trypsin or cyanogen bromide.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in this field, the present invention provides a new class of toxins useful for genetically engineering a wide range of biological systems which will thus become more useful for control of insect pests detrimental to agricultural, aquatic and forest industries.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

TABLE 1

1	AAGAAACCGT	AACAGCGGAA	ATCAACGCTG	Start	-35
51	TTCAATAAAC	GCCAACATAA		CAATGGTTAT	TAAACCCGTA
101	ACAACTCCGA	-10 GTGTAATACA	S-D ATTAACGCCT	GATGATAGAG	TAACGCCTGA
151	TGATAAAGGT	GAATATCAAC	CCGTTGAAAA	GCAAATAGCG	GGAGATATAA
201	TACGTGTACT	AGAATTCAAG	CAAACAAATG	AAAGTCATAC	AGGATTGTAT
251	GGAATTCCAT	ATCGAGCTAA	GAAAGTAATA	ATAGCATATG	CTTTAGCGGT
301	AAGTGGTATT	CATAATGTCT	CTCAACTTCC	AGAAGACTAT	TATAAAAATA
351	AGGATAACAC	AGGTAGAATT	TATCAAGTAT	ACATGTCTAA	TCTTTTATCT
401	GCACTATTGG	GTGAGAATGG	TGATCAAATT	TCTAAAGATA	TGGCAAATGA
451	TTTTACCCAG	AACGAACTGG	AGTTTGAGGT	CAACGTCTTA	AAAATACCTG
501	GGATATTCCT	GATCTTGAGA	ATAAACTATT	GGAAGATTTA	TTCAGATGAA
551	GATAAATTAT	TAGCACTATA	TTTCTTTGCT	TCACAAGAAC	TTCCAATGGA
601	GGCAAATCAA	CAATCAAATG	CAGCAAATTT	TTTTAAAGTA	ATTGATTTTT
651	TACTTATCTT	ATCTGCTGTA	ACATCACTGG	GAAAAAGGAT	TTTTTCAAAA
701	AATTTTTACA	ATGGTCTAGA	AACTAAATCA	TTAGAGAATT	ATATTGAGAG
751	AAAAAAACTT	TCTAAACCTT	TCTTTCGACC .	ACCGCAGAAG	TTACCTGATG
801	GCAGAACAGG	CTACTTGGCC	GGTCCAACAA	AAGCGCCTAA	ATTGCCAACA
851	ACGTETTETA	CAGCAACAAC	GTCTACAGCA (SCTTCATCTA .	attggagagt
901	TAGTTTGCAA	AAACCTTAGA Stop	GATAACCCAT (CAGAAATAC .	ATTTATGAAA
951	ATGGATGATG	CTGCAAAACG	AAAATATAGT :	CATTTATAA	aagaggtaca
1001	AAAGGGTAAT (GATCCACGTG	CAGCAGCAGC 1	AAGTATTGGT	ACAAAAAGCG
1051	GCAGTAACTT (CGAAAAACTG	CAAGGTAGAG A	ATTTATATAG	PATAAGACTA
1101	AGCCAAGAAC J	ACAGGGTAAC .	ATTCTCCATA A	VATAATACTG	ACCAAATAAT
1151	GGAGATCCAA A	AGTGTTGGAA	CTCATTACCA I	AATATATAA (CCTGATTTAT
1201	AGTAGTGATA I	AGACGTAAGA	TAAATATGGA A	GGTTGTAAT 1	CTATICCAC
1251	TTCCTCAGAG C	FIGACOCCTC 2	AG	•	

9500647A1 I >

TABLE 2

1	MVIKPVTTPS	VIQLTPDDRV	TPDDKGEYQP	VEKQIAGDII	RVLEFKQINE
51	SHTGLYGIPY	RAKKVIIAYA	LAVSGIHNVS	OT bedaakuk	DNTGRIYQVY
101	MSNLLSALLG	ENGDQISKDM	ANDFTQNELE	FEVNVLKIPG	IFLILRINYW
151	KIYSDEDKLL	ALYFFASQEL	PMEANQQSNA	ANFFKVIDFL	LILSAVTSLG
201	KRIFSKNFYN	GLETKSLENY	IERKKLSKPF	FRPPQKLPDG	RTGYLAGPTK
	APKLPTTSST				
301		STCSSSKYWY			
351	*Y*PNNGDPK	CWNSLPKYIT	*FIVVIRRKI	NMEGCNSIAL	PQR*PL

0000- JARO 0000647A1 I

10

25

CLAIMS:

- 1. A polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes an insecticidal toxin and which is at least 70% homologous to the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919, or a fragment thereof which fragment encodes an insecticidal polypeptide.
- 2. A polynucleotide molecule as claimed in claim 1 in which the nucleotide sequence is at least 90% homologous to the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919.
- 3. A polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially corresponding to the sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919 or a fragment thereof, which fragment encodes an insecticidal polypeptide.
- 4. A polynucleotide molecule according to claim 7, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes an insecticidal toxin, or an insecticidal fragment thereof, from Xenorhabdus nematophilus
- 5. A polynucleotide nucleotide molecule according to 20 any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the molecule is a DNA molecule.
 - 6. A purified insecticidal toxin, or functional fragment thereof, from the bacterial genus *Xenorhabdus*.
 - 7. A purified insecticidal toxin, or functional fragment thereof, from *Xenorhabdus nematophilus*.
 - 8. An insecticidal toxin which includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 2 or a functional fragment thereof.
- 9. An insecticidal toxin as claimed in claim 8 in which 30 the toxin includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 2 or a functional fragment thereof.
- 10. An insecticidal toxin, the toxin including an amino acid sequence substantially corresponding to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 1 or a functional fragment thereof.

- 11. A recombinant organism characterised in that it is transformed with the polynucleotide molecule according to any one of claims 1 to 5.
- 12. A recombinant organism according to claim 10 selected from the group consisting of entomopoxvirus, nuclear polyhedrosis virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and plants.
- 13. A method for controlling the proliferation of insects, comprising applying to an infested area a recombinant organism according to claim 10 or 11 optionally in admixture with an acceptable agricultural carrier.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 25 November 1994 (25.11.94); original claims 6 and 7 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

- 1. A polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes an insecticidal toxin and which is at least 70% homologous to the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919, or a fragment thereof which fragment encodes an insecticidal polypeptide.
- 2. A polynucleotide molecule as claimed in claim 1 in which the nucleotide sequence is at least 90% homologous to the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919.
- 3. A polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence substantially corresponding to the sequence shown in Table 1 from residue 83 to 919 or a fragment thereof, which fragment encodes an insecticidal polypeptide.
- 4. A polynucleotide molecule according to claim 7, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes an insecticidal toxin, or an insecticidal fragment thereof, from Xenorhabdus nematophilus
- 5. A polynucleotide nucleotide molecule according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the molecule is a DNA molecule.
 - 6. A purified insecticidal protein, or functional fragment thereof, from the bacterial genus *Xenorhabdus*.
- 7. A purified insecticidal protein, or functional fragment thereof, from *Xenorhabdus nematophilus*.
 - 8. An insecticidal toxin which includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 2 or a functional fragment thereof.
- 9. An insecticidal toxin as claimed in claim 8 in which 30 the toxin includes an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% homologous to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 2 or a functional fragment thereof.
- 10. An insecticidal toxin, the toxin including an amino acid sequence substantially corresponding to residues 1 to 278 shown in Table 1 or a functional fragment thereof.

Α.	CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
	C12N 15/31, C12N 5/10, C12P 21/02, A01N 63/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Derwent Database: file WPAT: Chemical Abstracts Service: file CASM. See "Electronic database" box for keywords.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: C12N 15/31

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base, and where practicable, search terms used) Derwent database, file WPAT; Chemical Abstracts service, file CASM; Keywords: "Xenorhabdus and (nematophilus or beddingii)"; "Akhurst" (in WPAT), "Akhurst and Xenorhab:" in CASM.

STN International, file CA, sequence "CCGTTGAAAAGCAAA" and "PMEANQQSNA".

C.	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVA	NT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	Relevant to Claim No.	
х	AU,B,21230/83 (558287) (COMMONWEAL INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION) 22 May 1 See entire specification especially page 3 line	984 (22.05.84)	6,7
x	B.V. McINERNEY et al: "Biologically active Part 1. Dithiolopyrrolone derivatives with an Products, Vol. 54, number 3, pp. 774-784, Name page 779 last 2 paragraphs, page 780 Table 2	tibiotic activity". Journal of Natural May-June 1991. See abstract,	6,7
X Furt	ther documents are listed to continuation of Box C.	X See patent family anne	х.
	cial categories of cited documents : ument defining the general state of the art which is	"T" later document publish filing date or priority of with the application but principle of theory und	ed after the international late and not in conflict t cited to understand the derlying the invention
not on the second of the secon	ument defining the general state of the art which is considered to be of particular relevance ier document but published on or after the rnational filing date ument which may throw doubts on priority claim(s)	Accument is taken awi	relevance; the claimed relevance; the claimed risidered novel or cannot be an inventive step when the
urnu dom	rnational filing date unent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) which is cited to establish the publication date of ther citation or other special reason (as specified) ument referring to an oral disclosure, use, ibition or other means ument published prior to the international filing date	"Y" document of particular invention cannot be conventive step when the with one or more other.	relevance; the claimed insidered to involve an e document is combined r such documents, such rious to a person skilled in
but	later than the priority date claimed	the art	the same patent family
Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search	
	er 1994 (06.09.94)	30 SEPTEMBER 1994	(30.09.94)
Name and	mailing address of the ISA/AU	Authorized officer	
AUSTRAL PO BOX 20 WODEN		arono.	
AUSTRAL		ROBYN PORTER	•
Facsimile 1	No. (06) 2853929	Telephone No. (06) 2832318	

	tion). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
tegory	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
x	B.V. McINERNEY et al: "Biologically active metabolites from <u>Xenorhabdus</u> spp, Part 2. Benzopyran-1-one derivatives with gastroprotective activity", Journal of Natural Products, Vol. 54, number 3, pp. 785-795, May-June 1991.	6,7
	·	
	·	-
	·	
,		
		·

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet)(July 1992)

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

	Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family	y Member	
U	21230/83	CA WO	1214130 84/01775	ÉP ZA	126092 8307974	US	4672130
-							
							·
			•				
			ŧ				
	•.	·.	•				
		•					

Form PCT/ISA/210(patent family annex)(July 1992) coplim